

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

FILED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

2005 MAR - 7 P 12:54

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**ROBERT J. DiSALVIO,** 05 10421 RGS  
Plaintiff, )  
                )

**Vs.** )

**TOWN OF ABINGTON, MASS.**, MAGISTRATE JUDGE Dein  
**TIMOTHY O'CONNOR,** )  
**CHRISTOPHER CUTTER,** )  
Defendants. )

Civil Action No. 05 -

RECEIPT # 62524  
AMOUNT \$ 750  
SUMMONS ISSUED 4/2  
LOCAL RULE 4.1  
WAIVER FORM  
MCF ISSUED  
BY DPTY. CLK. FORM  
DATE 3/11/05

**COMPLAINT**

**Jurisdiction and Venue**

1. The Federal District Court has jurisdiction over this case pursuant to 28 U.S. Code § 1331 and 1343.
2. This Court has pendant jurisdiction over related state claims under 28 U.S.C. §1337 for violations of Plaintiff's rights under article XIV of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights, as well as Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.) 12 § 111.
3. Venue in the District of Massachusetts is proper under 28 U.S. Code § 1331(b). During all times mentioned in this Complaint, Plaintiff was and is a citizen of the United States who resides within the District of Massachusetts. At all times mentioned herein, the Defendants were employed within the District of Massachusetts as police officers for the Town of Abington, Massachusetts.

**Parties**

4. Plaintiff Robert DiSalvio is a natural person domiciled at 223 South Main Street, Randolph, Massachusetts.
5. Defendant Town of Abington is a municipality in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with a principle place of business at 500 Gliniewicz Way, Abington, Massachusetts.
6. Defendant Timothy O'Connor, at all pertinent times, was a police officer in the Town of Abington, Massachusetts, and is sued in his individual capacity. On information and belief, he is no longer a police officer with the Abington Police Department.
7. Defendant Christopher Cutter, at all pertinent times, was a police officer in the Town of Abington, Massachusetts, and is sued in his individual capacity. On information and belief, he is still a police officer with the Abington Police Department.

**Factual Allegations**

8. Mr. DiSalvio was, at all pertinent times, subject to a restraining order issued under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 209A, dated February 18, 2002, from Quincy District Court, Docket No. 2001 56 RO 0790, requested by his then-wife, Kathleen DiSalvio.
9. The February 18, 2002 restraining order required, in pertinent part, that Mr. DiSalvio stay 100 yards away from Kathleen DiSalvio, and not contact her directly or indirectly.
10. On March 7, 2002, Mr. DiSalvio, while working in Abington, Massachusetts, stopped near the apartment complex of Maureen Melanson ("Melanson"), sister of his then-wife Kathleen DiSalvio, and his then sister-in-law, who lived in Abington.

11. Mr. DiSalvio parked a few hundred yards from Melanson's apartment on a main street, intending to take some money to Melanson for his estranged wife.
12. Mr. DiSalvio got out of his car briefly, walked to a nearby building, changed his mind, and got back into his car without seeing or speaking to Melanson.
13. After Mr. DiSalvio got back into his car, defendant Officer O'Connor approached it, knocked on the window, and opened his car door.
14. O'Connor told Mr. DiSalvio to get out of his car, without giving a reason. Mr. DiSalvio complied, without resistance.
15. O'Connor then frisked Mr. DiSalvio, and checked the car. There were no weapons or contraband.
16. Defendant Cutter then approached, and joined Defendant O'Connor in asking Mr. DiSalvio why he was there.
17. Mr. DiSalvio explained that he was going to stuff some money into the mailbox of his sister in law Melanson, but decided against it.
18. Defendant Cutter then talked with Melanson, who falsely accused him of domestic violence, attempted murder, stalking, and other fantastic allegations. Mr. DiSalvio had not committed any violence. Melanson did not want a restraining order when it was offered by the police.
19. Cutter and O'Connor threatened Mr. DiSalvio, stating, among other things, to crack his skull open and to shove a flashlight up his nether region.
20. At no time Mr. DiSalvio did not threaten or disrespect the police officers, nor was he armed with any weapon. Defendant O'Connor testified that he was a "gentleman".

21. The defendant officers obtained current information on the provisions of the restraining order in place on behalf of Kathleen DiSalvio, and knew that Mr. DiSalvio had not violated the order, directly or indirectly.
22. The defendant officers knew that Kathleen DiSalvio was not at the apartment of Melanson, that Melanson did not have a restraining order against Mr. DiSalvio.
23. Since the defendant officers talked with Melanson, they knew that Mr. DiSalvio had not intimidated Melanson or threatened or assaulted her.
24. Officer O'Connor placed handcuffs on Mr. DiSalvio and placed him in his cruiser, with Defendant Cutter's help and involvement.
25. Officer O'Connor took Mr. DiSalvio to the Abington Police station, charged him with:
  - a) Violation of a restraining order; b) Intimidation of a witness; and c) Assault, and then took him to the Plymouth County House of Correction.
26. Mr. DiSalvio was arraigned the next day, March 8, 2002, was not allowed bail, and spent the next two weeks at the Plymouth County House of Correction.
27. On or about March 22, 2002, at a hearing in Brockton District Court, Judge Nagle allowed bail, but Judge Baylor had already revoked his bail from Quincy, based on the alleged new offense, so he returned to jail in Dedham HOC, where he stayed for two more weeks.
28. At a hearing held in June of 2002, in Brockton District Court, the district attorney dropped the 209A violation and the assault charge, and wanted to proceed against him on the intimidation of a witness charge.
29. At the hearing, Melanson refused to testify, and if they forced her to do so, she would be

a hostile witness. That charge was then dropped as well.

30. At no time pertinent to this action did Mr. DiSalvio violate the restraining order against Kathleen DiSalvio.
31. At no time did Mr. DiSalvio initiate third party contact with Melanson, in violation of the restraining order.
32. At no time did Mr. DiSalvio intimidate a witness.
33. At no time did Mr. DiSalvio assault Melanson.
34. Mr. DiSalvio spent a total of 30 days in jail on these false charges.
35. After Mr. DiSalvio was released from jail, at a visitation pick up with his children, Maureen Melanson came out of Kathleen DiSalvio's house with his children, came up to within two feet of Mr. DiSalvio, and laughed, showing no fear whatsoever.

## COUNT I

### Federal Civil Rights - Fourth Amendment Violation Defendant Police Officers Only

36. Plaintiff incorporates all previous paragraphs as if fully stated herein.
37. By arresting and detaining Mr. DiSalvio without probable cause, while in possession of facts and a clearly worded order which showed that Mr. DiSalvio committed no violation, the Defendant officers violated Plaintiff's 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures.
38. Following his arrest, the Defendants continued to hold Mr. DiSalvio in the town of Abington and in Plymouth House of Correction in violation of his protected rights.

39. The actions of the defendant officers were done under color of law.
40. As a direct and proximate result thereof, Plaintiff suffered damages, as set forth below.

## COUNT II

**Federal Civil Rights: Fourth Amendment Violation-**  
**Defendant Town of Abington Only**

41. Plaintiff incorporates all previous paragraphs as if fully stated herein.
42. The Town of Abington has hired specialized personnel, and instituted policies and procedures which result in arrests for restraining order violations, which violate constitutional protections for defendants.
43. The Town of Abington has improperly trained its police officers in the legal procedures for arrests for restraining order violations.
44. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Abington's improper training, and improper municipal policy and custom, Defendant officers falsely arrested Mr. DiSalvio.
45. As a direct and proximate result thereof, Plaintiff suffered damages, as set forth below.

## COUNT III

**State Civil Rights- M.G.L. Ch. 12 §11I**  
**Defendant Police Officers Only**

46. Plaintiff incorporates all previous paragraphs as if fully stated herein.
47. By arresting and detaining Mr. DiSalvio without probable cause, while in possession of a clearly worded order which showed that Mr. DiSalvio committed no violation, as set forth above, the Defendant officers violated Plaintiff's right to be free from unreasonable

searches and seizures as protected under Article XIV of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights.

48. Following his arrest, the Defendants continued to hold Mr. DiSalvio in jail in violation of his protected rights.
49. During and after the arrest, the Defendants violated Mr. DiSalvio's protected rights with threats, intimidation and coercion, by their words and actions.
50. As a direct and proximate result thereof, Plaintiff suffered damages, as set forth below.

#### **COUNT IV**

##### **False Arrest And Imprisonment -** **Defendant Police Officers Only**

51. Plaintiff incorporates all previous paragraphs as if fully stated herein.
52. Defendants arrested Plaintiff without probable cause, while in possession of a restraining order from the Quincy District Court containing clear and unambiguous terms, which the Plaintiff had not violated.
53. The Defendants falsely imprisoned the Plaintiff in jail with no probable cause to charge him with a crime.
54. As a direct and proximate result thereof, Plaintiff suffered damages, as set forth below.

##### **Damages**

55. Mr. DiSalvio is a licensed electrician, and runs an electrical contracting business, DiSalvio Electric, Inc., a closely held corporation of which he is the sole owner and

president, and which is the only source of his income.

56. During his improper incarceration, Mr. DiSalvio was unable to manage the business, or do electrical work for the business. Mr. DiSalvio suffered damages by a loss of business revenue, loss of current and future business, loss of business opportunity, loss of current and future income, loss of good will, and loss of reputation.
57. Due to the emotional distress of the improper incarceration, Mr. DiSalvio was unable to work efficiently and effectively for some period of time after he was released, causing further loss of business revenue and income.
58. As a result of the false arrest and violation of Mr. DiSalvio's Civil Rights, he also suffered damages in the form of indignity and humiliation, deprivation of liberty, physical pain and suffering from his incarceration, emotional distress, nightmares, sleeplessness, appetite loss, depression, and loss of consortium with his children.

**Prayers For Relief**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff requests the following relief:

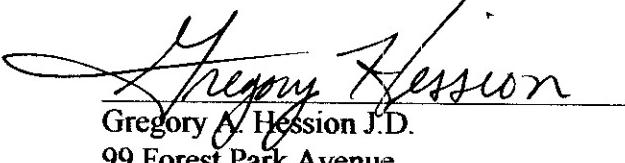
- A. A judgment against the defendants for violating Mr. DiSalvio's federally protected 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights, for illegal seizure of his person without probable cause;
- B. A judgment against the defendants for violating Mr. DiSalvio's rights under Article XIV of the Mass. Declaration of Rights, for illegal seizure of his person without probable cause;
- C. Compensatory damages to which he is entitled, to be proved at trial;
- D. Costs of suit;

- E. Reasonable attorney's fees for the prosecution of this action;
- F. Punitive damages to which he is entitled, to be proved at trial;

**Demand For Jury Trial**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Respectfully Submitted,  
The Plaintiff, Robert DiSalvio

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory A. Hession J.D.  
99 Forest Park Avenue  
Springfield, MA 01108  
(413) 746-3333  
BBO No. 564457

Dated: March 4, 2005

JS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

## CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

CLERK'S OFFICE

## I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

DiSALVIO, ROBERT J.

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

GREGORY A. HESSEON, J.D.  
99 FOREST PARK AVE.  
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01108  
(413) 746-3333

## II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Diversity<br>(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III) |

## III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

Citizen of This State	PTF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	DEF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	PTF <input type="checkbox"/> 4	DEF <input type="checkbox"/> 4
Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

## IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL INJURY	<input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL INJURY	<input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment
<input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane	<input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	<input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust
<input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	<input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking
<input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument	<input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander	<input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability		<input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	<input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud		<input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending		<input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations
<input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	<input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage		<input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit
<input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability		<input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV
<input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits	<input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability			<input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service
<input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury			<input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange
<input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability				<input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410
<input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise				<input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS	LABOR	SOCIAL SECURITY
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation	<input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting	<input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff)
<input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/ Accommodations	<input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations	<input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923)
<input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	<input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare	<input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIW (405(g))
<input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land	<input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 447 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI
<input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 448 Other Civil Rights		<input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation	<input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))
<input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property			<input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609
FEDERAL TAX SUITS				
			<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	

## V. ORIGIN

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Original Proceeding | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Removed from State Court | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Remanded from Appellate Court | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Reinstated or Reopened | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Transferred from another district (specify) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Multidistrict Litigation | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

42 U.S.C. § 1983

## VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Brief description of cause: FALSE ARREST/INCARCERATION WITHOUT PROBABLE CAUSE - 4th AMENDMENT

## VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

 CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

## DEMANDS

PROVE AT TRIAL

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND:  Yes  No

## VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

None

DATE

3-4-05

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

Gregory Hession

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IPP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS1. Title of case (name of first party on each side only) DiSALVIO v. TOWN OF ABRINGTON

2. Category in which the case belongs based upon the numbered nature of suit code listed on the civil cover sheet. (See local rule 40.1(a)(1)).

- I. 160, 410, 470, R.23, REGARDLESS OF NATURE OF SUIT.
- II. 195, 196, 368, 400, 440, 441-446, 540, 550, 555, 625, 710, 720, 730, 740, 790, 791, 820\*, 830\*, 840\*, 850, 890, 892-894, 895, 950. \*Also complete AO 120 or AO 121 for patent, trademark or copyright cases
- III. 110, 120, 130, 140, 151, 190, 210, 230, 240, 245, 290, 310, 315, 320, 330, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 362, 365, 370, 371, 380, 385, 450, 891.
- IV. 220, 422, 423, 430, 460, 480, 490, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 690, 810, 861-865, 870, 871, 875, 900.
- V. 150, 152, 153.

3. Title and number, if any, of related cases. (See local rule 40.1(g)). If more than one prior related case has been filed in this district please indicate the title and number of the first filed case in this court.

None

4. Has a prior action between the same parties and based on the same claim ever been filed in this court?

YES  NO 

5. Does the complaint in this case question the constitutionality of an act of congress affecting the public interest? (See 28 USC §2403)

YES  NO 

If so, is the U.S.A. or an officer, agent or employee of the U.S. a party?

YES  NO 

6. Is this case required to be heard and determined by a district court of three judges pursuant to title 28 USC §2284?

YES  NO 

7. Do all of the parties in this action, excluding governmental agencies of the united states and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("governmental agencies"), residing in Massachusetts reside in the same division? - (See Local Rule 40.1(d)).

YES  NO 

A. If yes, in which division do all of the non-governmental parties reside?

Eastern Division  Central Division  Western Division 

B. If no, in which division do the majority of the plaintiffs or the only parties, excluding governmental agencies, residing in Massachusetts reside?

Eastern Division  Central Division  Western Division 

8. If filing a Notice of Removal - are there any motions pending in the state court requiring the attention of this Court? (If yes, submit a separate sheet identifying the motions)

YES  NO 

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

ATTORNEY'S NAME GREGORY A. HESSION J.D.ADDRESS 99 FOREST PARK AVENUE SPRINGFIELD, MA 01108TELEPHONE NO. (413) 746-3333